

## Home and Farm.

From the *Independent*.

**Tea and its Alterations.**  
The number of *Tea*, *Water*, and *Flavor* this winter exceeds, says the *London Times*, an edition of 100,000 copies, which at the present time possess more than ordinary interest. The article is devoted to the examination of one particular kind of tea—namely, *China*; though resembling generally a black tea, has more properties of a green tea. There are two descriptions of it in the market—namely, *Canter* and *Fow Chow*, the latter being considered the best. It is usually scented, and is for the most part used for mixing with other teas. It is never, we believe, used by itself in England out of the northern portions of the Midland Counties, whence it is occasionally taken unmixed. The great bulk of the export is imported in the manufacturing districts, and a little is used also in the West of England. The proportions employed there may do much to inspire confidence in tea and a feeling of confidence generally. Some firms have reduced their prices ten per cent., and have had no lack of customers. If profits are less, this course is better than leaving goods to accumulate upon the shelves. But all, make in circulation whatever there is in the community, which of itself is good. In London a paper is very little used. The sample, the results of the rigid analysis of which are given in the report, where obtained from brokers and manufacturers. Most of them come from different ships, and therefore they represent large bunches of tea, and the twenty samples tested were taken just as they came to hand, and without selection. Of the twenty teas analyzed, one was the *Fow Chow* paper; the other nineteen samples were adulterated. All these were fused with plumbers or black lead, contained tibiae, iron filings, sand, and fragments of quartz in variable quantities. But we must here pause to describe what is meant by the term “*tea-tea*.” This name has been very candidly given to the article by the Chinese themselves, for it consists not of tea leaves, but of tea dust, or the dust of leaves not tea, sand, frequently iron filings, made up with gunn or starch into little masses, used with plumblings in imitation of paper, or with *Puerh* tea and turmeric in imitation of gunpowder tea. The qualities of iron filings mix with the tea leaves from 2 to 12.5%, and the ash of the tea from 13 to 90 to less than 52.2 per cent. in place of tea. The extractive matter of genuine green tea being about 40 per cent., that of the adulterated tea ranged from 26.69 to 37.04. To the tea, one of the principal constituents of tea, present in the 29 tea tested, was nearly all dissolved, and in one instance as low as 0.82 per cent. It is thus seen that the practice of adulterating this description of tea in a very small quantity is very common. No doubt many of the samples were of inferior quality, yet the price at which the different samples were offered for sale varied as much as 300 to 400 per cent., without however, any corresponding difference of quality being, as a rule, observable. From the small quantities of iron filings mixed with some of the tea, it is evident that they are added in many cases not for the sake of bulk or weight, but for a purpose to be mentioned hereafter, although in some instances the amount was so considerable, as to add materially to the weight of the tea. The sand and particles often, consisting mostly of quartz, were doubtless added solely for the purpose of increasing the weight. One of the samples of tea examined contained nearly 10 per cent. of iron filings. Now, since tea contains naturally a large quantity of tannin, these are thus brought together, the two chief constituents which enter into the composition of tea, and by appropriate treatment a bottle of ink was made from the tea in question, and of which the article we are now noticing was in part written. What has thus been accomplished in the laboratory is not impossible may arise in the human stomach, into which the large adulterated iron-tea has been received. The object of the Chinese in adding iron-tea to tea is now therefore apparent. The iron, slowly dissolved by the aid of the tea, forms tannate of iron, and the color of the infusion made with such tea becomes thereby darkened. It is then, to prepare a tea which will furnish a dark solution, so greatly preferred by many people, that the Chinese have been led to make the addition in question.

### How to Furnish.

It is essential to the brilliancy and adhesiveness of varnish that the temperature of the atmosphere in which it is put should be high—certainly when he bore, since, at a lower degree of heat, a deposit of the invisible moisture in the atmosphere takes place before the solvent in the varnish has sufficiently evaporated. This may occur even on fine summer days, giving a milky, turbid appearance to the varnish, which can only be removed by bringing the temperature artificially up to about 60 degrees. The article should require that the varnish be exposed to the sun, and the sun's rays, but should then be smoothed, washed, and rubbed dry with camomile oil or silk. All dust, dirt, and moisture are to be removed by means of a brush of suitable size, with pure, soft, fine bristles, the surface being dried with a cloth.

The deficiency in France is variously estimated at from 2,000,000 to 5,000,000 quarters. All through the month of September Frenchingers have been upon the English markets. The Minister of the Interior of France, however, announced that from 17,000,000 to 20,000,000 bushels would be available. This in the case the brilliancy and cleanness can only be restored by thickly re-coating the surface with the prominent journals as jadahs and likely to result in a scarcity of chevrons, taking care not to put it so near that it will scale off.

**Wheat in Foreign Markets.**

The London *Standard* announces the result of the last harvest, as anything like a famine, especially in the north.

The terrible rain storm, accompanied by thunder and wind, not only interfered with the gathering of the crop, but threatened rain to bathe in the shock, and the danger of sprouting was imminent. Below the rains set in, it was estimated that the yield would be at least 2 bushels per acre, a quarter average—which, over an area of 3,000,000 acres, would give an aggregate of 10,750,000 bushels, or 80,374,960 bushels, of which 1,000,000 quarters would be required for seed, leaving for consumption 78,374,960 bushels. Taking the population at 30,000,000, and allowing six bushels per capita as the average consumption, the world would be left with a deficiency of over 100,000,000 bushels, to be supplied from abroad.

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The International Corn and Seed League, when in session at Vienna, estimated that the Austro-Hungarian Empire would export about 6,000,000 bushels, while in favorable seasons Hungary alone exports three times that amount. Delegates from Germany reported no more than the usual crop. At Olessa prices were high in consequence of a poor harvest. All indications point to a short supply and high prices in Europe.

**REMEDY FOR BEET ROOTS.**—A correspondent says: “The most complete check upon robbing bees is to place a bunch of grass or hay over the entrance of the hives. The bees will find their way to the entrance of their own hives, the robbers will be caught by the sentinels in passing through the grass, and soon cease their pilfering.”

**WATER FOR BEES.**—A recent writer says: “Bees have a number of troughs, with earthenware and gravel placed in them, and filled with pure water, sitting around your apiary; a little salt thrown occasionally into the water is also a great help.”

A good many farmers in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, are giving up grain and cattle to a considerable extent and turning their attention to sheep.

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